AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #307

BOOK THREE: Fire
CHAPTER SEVEN: "The Runaway"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN WITH MONUMENT - AFTERNOON

We open in the center of town on a twenty to thirty foot-tall MONUMENT depicting FIRELORD OZAI, whose head is tilted back with hands out to either side. This magnificent monument is a grand public fountain -- only instead of water, flames and fire gush from Ozai's mouth and hands. This fire-fountain is the town center-piece.

As we PAN past the fire-fountain, we see there is a COMMOTION in town. The authorities are apprehending a dangerous and wanted criminal -- Toph! Soldiers surround her, overwhelming her. Before she has a chance to Earthbend, a large soldier throws a NET on her and lifts her off the ground. Toph squirms, trying to get away, but it's no use -- she's caught. Toph begins yelling to someone off screen.

TOPH

1 How could you do this to me?! You betrayed me! 1

We REVEAL Toph is yelling at Katara! Katara has a cold look on her face as she fights back tears.

KATARA

2 You brought this on yourself. I had no choice. 2

Katara turns her back as Toph is dragged away...

FADE TO WHITE:

CHYRON: "Three days earlier..."

EXT. HILLSIDE CAMPSITE - DAY

Toph stands in a fighting stance. Across from her, we see Katara, also in a fighting stance. They stare at each other for a moment, ready to attack. A TENSE BEAT goes by before Aang goofily stumbles in between them wearing a blindfold.

AANG

3 Okay, I'm ready for some training. 3

Toph doesn't hesitate to send an attack at Aang. Aang quickly leaps out of the way. Aang, still blindfolded, uses his Bending to "see" -- and he is awesome at it. As Toph and Katara attack Aang, sparring him, Aang Earthbends, Airbends, and Waterbends, countering their attacks. He is even using his cool 'rock hands' to fight.

TOPH
4 Good job, Twinkle Toes, visualize then attack. 4

Toph sends an Earthbending strike as if demonstrating what she just said. But Aang jumps out of the way and the strike accidentally HITS Katara, knocking her down.

KATARA
5 Maybe you should take your own advice, Toph. 5

TOPH
6 What's-a-matter, can't handle some dirt, Madame Fussy-britches? 6

Katara's brow furrows. She sends a Waterbending strike towards Aang which misses and 'accidentally' hits Toph.

KATARA
7 Oh sorry, did I splash you, mud slug? 7

Toph fumes for a beat before she Earthbends a ball of dirt towards Katara. But Katara reacts quickly and bends a ball of water back towards Toph. The two elements COMBINE in mid-air and MUD SPLASHES on both Toph and Katara.

KATARA / TOPH
8 (SHOCKED/DISGUSTED REACTIONS) 8

Toph and Katara completely ignore Aang as they begin FIGHTING EACH OTHER. Their water and Earthbending continue to make MUD which covers them both. Aang looks confused.

AANG
9 Are we taking a break? 9

Suddenly, Sokka appears from behind a bush, wielding his club and charging towards Aang.

SOKKA
(crazy yell)
10 SNEAK ATTACK! 10

Aang easily avoids the attack and sends Sokka stumbling forward. Aang takes off his blindfold and looks at Sokka.

AANG
11 Sokka, sneak attacks don't work if you yell it out loud. 11

Sokka and Aang are interrupted when they hear Toph and Katara who are now MUD-WRESTLING.

TOPH
12 Hungry for a mud pie?! 12

Toph bends small mud-pies which SMACK Katara in the face. Katara regroups before TACKLING Toph. Katara grabs Toph, and as she DUNKS her in the mud, she yells:

KATARA
13 I'll give you a mud pie! 13

AANG
14 Uh, guys... I thought we were supposed to be training me? 14

Katara and Toph stop mid-fight and look to Aang and Sokka who are just staring back at them. Katara realizes what she's doing and lets Toph's head go. Katara climbs out of the mud pit and composes herself like a DIGNIFIED TEACHER AND LADY.

KATARA
(to Aang)
15 Very well pupil, I believe we've had enough training for today. 15

Katara walks off with her head held high, covered in mud.

TOPH
16 While Katara cleans up... 16

In one quick move Toph Earthbends the mud off of herself.

TOPH (cont'd)
17 Let's go have some fun! 17

SOKKA/AANG
17A (CHEERING) 17A

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SEEDY FIRE NATION TOWN - DAY

A MESSENGER HAWK flies past Sokka, Toph, and Aang as they head towards the center of town. Sokka points to the bird as it and other messenger hawks land at a nearby post office.

SOKKA
18 Look at all those messenger hawks! You know, I've been thinking about getting one for myself. 18
(MORE)

SOKKA (cont'd)
That way I wouldn't have to talk to anyone -- I could just send them messages!

TOPH
19 I got to say, I like the idea of not talking to you. 19

Aang interrupts, holding up a single coin.

AANG
20 So guys, what are we going to get with our last silver piece? 20

Toph suddenly stops when she feels something...

TOPH
21 We can get more money. 21

Sokka and Aang are confused, but Toph motions to a group of people watching the Avatar version of a SHELL GAME.

TOPH (cont'd)
22 Right there! 22

The kids watch people play the game. A PLAYER puts his money down and the DEALER places a rock under one of three shells. The dealer quickly moves the shells around and the player guesses which shell the rock is under -- if the player guesses right, they win money, otherwise they lose their money. As the kids watch the players continue to guess wrong, Toph explains...

TOPH (cont'd)
23 This is where you "seeing" people are at a disadvantage. Everyone guesses wrong because the dealer moves the rock at the last minute. But I can feel it with my Earthbending. 23

As the group of people dissipate after losing their money, the dealer sees the kids watching. He calls to them.

DEALER
24 You there, want to play a friendly game? 24

Toph grabs the money from Aang and walks up, acting innocent.

TOPH
25 How could I possibly play? I'm blind. 25

DEALER
26 You don't have to see to be lucky. 26

Toph sits in front of the dealer and puts her silver piece down to play. Sokka and Aang sit next to Toph on the ground. The dealer places a rock under a shell and as he moves them around, he uses his SLEIGHT OF HAND to place a rock under EACH OF THE THREE SHELLS, so that Toph can't lose. Toph picks a shell and wins a silver piece.

Toph puts her two silver pieces down and again, the dealer does the same thing. Toph picks a shell and wins again.

AANG
29 Flamey-o, Toph! 29

DEALER
30 Wow, fancy guessing! You're amazing at this! Would you like to make the game a little more interesting? 30

TOPH
31 More interesting? How? 31

DEALER
32 Well let's say you toss in your friend's fine sword there -- then I'll put up twenty silver pieces against it -- and <u>that's</u> more interesting. 32

Toph grabs the sword.

TOPH
(to dealer)
34 I'll do it for forty silver pieces. 34

SOKKA
35 (FUNNY REACTION SOUND) 35

The dealer smiles to himself -- he thinks he just baited her.

DEALER
36 Forty silver pieces it is. 36

The dealer lays down two bags of silver pieces and Toph puts down the sword. The dealer begins the game. He places a rock under a shell and swiftly moves them around. Toph picks a shell. As the dealer lifts the shell he has a "too bad, try again" look on his face.

DEALER (cont'd)
37 Sorry little lady, but-- huh!? 37

The dealer is SHOCKED when he sees the rock under the very shell Toph picked! Toph feels the rock and is excited.

TOPH
38 I won! 38

Toph grabs the sword and the money and the kids quickly leave. As the kids walk away, the dealer is still staring at the rock, SHOCKED and CONFUSED.

EXT. HILLSIDE CAMPSITE - DAY

Sokka, Toph, and Aang return to the campsite with lots of groceries. They are LAUGHING and CELEBRATING. Katara notices all the groceries.

KATARA
39 Where did you guys get the money to buy all this stuff? 39

AANG
40 Toph got us money. She scammed one of those guys in town who moves the shells around all sneaky-like. 40

Katara doesn't look very happy about this.

SOKKA
41 She used Earthbending to win the game. Classic. 41

KATARA
42 Ahh, so she cheated. 42

TOPH
43 Hey, I only cheated because he was cheating. I cheated a cheater. What's wrong with that? 43

KATARA
44 I'm just saying, this isn't something we should make a habit of doing. 44

TOPH
45 Why, because it's fun, and you hate fun?! 45

KATARA
46 I don't hate fun! 46

Katara grabs Momo and puts him on her head.

KATARA (cont'd)
47 See. Fun. 47

Momo SCREECHES and jumps off Katara's head. Aang approaches Katara to reassure her.

AANG
48 Katara, I'll personally make you an Avatar-promise that we won't make a habit of doing these scams. 48

Katara still has a concerned look on her face as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MUSICAL MONTAGE

The kids, carrying a large bag of money, walk past an AVATAR-STYLE chance game that uses unusually-shaped dice. All the PEOPLE at the game see the bag of money and motion for the kids to come over and play. Toph shrugs and walks over. As she plays, we see her secretly MANIPULATING the dice using Earthbending. A little while later, Toph walks away from the angry players with all their money.

CUT TO:

The kids hide behind a building and watch as a RICH FIRE NATION PERSON rides down the street in his dragon-moose drawn carriage. At the last minute Toph walks in front of the carriage. She uses SECRET EARTHBENDING to stop the carriage abruptly, and PRETENDS to GET HIT by the carriage. She holds her arm acting like she is in pain. The rich Fire Nation person tries to flee the scene but is stopped by Sokka who is in a POLICE-STYLE UNIFORM and mustache. A short time later, we see the rich Fire Nation person handing Toph A LOT OF MONEY. Sokka shakes his head approvingly. A beat later, Toph and Sokka run away.

CUT TO:

A carnival-style place, the kids watch MUSCULAR Fire Nation men try to win the pot of money at the 'test your strength' game (the game where you use a sledgehammer to send a weight up a pole and ring a bell). But no one can win -- that is until Toph arrives. She grabs the sledge hammer, barely able to pick it up. People watching begin to LAUGH at her. Toph manages to swing the sledgehammer but she misses the target -- still, with the help of some SECRET EARTHBENDING, she manages to send the weight up at an INCREDIBLE SPEED. The weight BOUNCES UP AND DOWN, repeatedly RINGING the bell. Everyone stops laughing. Toph smiles and takes the pot of money, leaving the CARNIVAL MAN scratching his head, confused.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Sokka, Toph, and Aang are sitting around, divvying up their money three ways when Katara walks up disapprovingly.

KATARA
49 Guys, I think these scams have gone far enough. If you keep doing them something bad is going to happen. 49

TOPH
50 Could you for once stop being such a sourpuss and just lighten up? 50

KATARA
51 Oh, I'm sorry. You think I should be more like you -- like some wild child? 51

TOPH
52 Yeah, maybe. Maybe then you'd see how <u>great</u> we have it. I mean look at us: we're traveling around the world, making easy money, having fun -- with <u>no</u> <u>parents</u> to tell us what to do! 52

Suddenly, a looks of REALIZATION crosses Katara's face.

KATARA
53 Ahhh... I see... You're acting like this because of your parents. 53

TOPH
(dismissive)
54 Whatever. 54

KATARA
55 They were controlling over you, so you ran away, and now you act like your parents don't exist -- you act like you hate them, but you don't -- you just feel guilty. 55

TOPH
56 I do hate them. 56

KATARA
57 I don't think so -- I think you miss them but you just don't want to deal with that. So instead you act like this crazy person. 57

This clearly strikes a chord with Toph -- maybe Katara's right, but Toph won't show it.

TOPH
58 Look, I ran away to help Aang! 58

KATARA
59 You know what, it doesn't matter. These scams put us all at risk and we don't need that. We've already got some third-eyed freak after us! 59

Sokka jumps into the conversation.

SOKKA
60 Speaking of that third-eyed freak, I think I've come up with a name for him. What do you think of 'Sparky-Sparky Boom Man'? 60

Sokka looks to Toph and Katara who ignore him and fume.

SOKKA (cont'd)
61 Just think about it. 61

Katara continues to argue with Toph.

KATARA
62 We have enough money. You need to stop this! 62

TOPH
63 I'll stop when I want to stop and not when you tell me! 63

Toph grabs her money and walks to her tent. Katara shakes her head, frustrated. Sokka breaks the silence:

SOKKA
64 Speaking of money, I'm off to spend some. See you guys later. 64

Sokka grabs his money and walks off.

EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Sokka steps outside the post office with a MESSENGER HAWK of his very own, resting on his arm.

SOKKA
65 Hawky, welcome to team Avatar. My name's Sokka and I'm your new owner. And as such, I should warn you that there's already a lemur in our group. So I don't want to see any fighting. 65

HAWKY
66 (CAWS) 66

SOKKA
(baby talk)
67 Good wittle messenger Hawky. Who's got pretty feathers? 67

Sokka turns to walk away but suddenly stops when he notices something. On the side of the post office, Sokka sees a WANTED POSTER OF TOPH! Sokka rips the wanted poster off the wall; the hawk CAWS again. Sokka turns to the bird.

SOKKA (cont'd)
68 You're right, Hawky. This is bad. 68

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Sokka returns to the campsite with his messenger hawk on his shoulder. He spots Toph and heads to her. Katara and Aang are off in the distance training.

SOKKA
69 Toph, when I was in town... I found something that you're not going to like. 69

Sokka reveals the wanted poster, holding it out to Toph.

TOPH
70 Well, it sounds like a sheet of paper but I guess you're referring to what's on the sheet of paper. 70

SOKKA
71 It's a wanted poster -- of you! They've nicknamed you "The Runaway." 71

Toph is suddenly very excited.

TOPH
72 A wanted poster, that's so great! 72
(dramatically)
73 "The Runaway" -- I love my new nickname! Is there a picture of me, does it look good?! 73

SOKKA
74 Well yeah actually, it does look pretty good. 74
(realizing)
75 But Toph you're missing the point. 75
76 Maybe Katara was right, these scams are drawing too much attention to us. 76

TOPH
77 Look, don't be such a worry-wart like your sister. Think of it this way -- now you have plenty of money to help with the invasion plan. 77

SOKKA
78 Well that is true... I had this idea of making armor for Appa... 78

She hands him a silver coin.

TOPH
79 Here's a little extra, so you can get yourself a nice map of the Fire Nation. 79
(on second thought)
80 You know what? Make it an atlas. 80

She hands him a few more coins.

SOKKA
(coming around)
81 I do like expensive atlases... 81

TOPH
82 Of course you do. And that's why this wanted poster is going to stay our little secret. 82

In the distance, Katara and Aang are heading back. Toph grabs the wanted poster and hides it in her pocket. Just then Katara and Aang enter the campsite. Sokka's messenger hawk CAWS and Katara looks at the bird.

KATARA
83 Sokka, tell me you didn't buy a bird. 83

SOKKA
84 Not just a bird, a messenger bird! Now we can send messages all over the world, even to Gran-gran. 84

Katara rolls her eyes but Aang seems excited.

AANG
85 Wow, how does it work? 85

Sokka's excited face turns to confusion as he suddenly realizes he doesn't know.

SOKKA
86 Hm. Uh, I never actually thought about that... 86

Sokka looks at the bird for a moment.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(commanding)
87 Hawky. Gran-gran. South Pole. 87

Sokka points in the direction of the South Pole. Hawky CAWS and Sokka smiles.

SOKKA (cont'd)
88 I think he gets it. 88

Suddenly Momo appears on Aang's shoulder, HISSING and CHITTERING at Sokka's hawk. Hawky CAWS back then suddenly ATTACKS Momo. The two animals fly off screen, fighting. Sokka and Aang chase after them, trying to break them up.

SOKKA (cont'd)
89 Hawky, make nice! Bad Hawky! 89

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - LATER

Katara serves bowls of soup to Appa and Aang, when Sokka and Toph return to the campsite, carrying bags of money and stuff. Katara crosses her arms and begins to act like an overprotective mother.

KATARA
90 Well, look who decided to join us. Where have you two been -- off scamming again? 90

TOPH
(defiant)
91 Yes we were. 91

KATARA
92 And I suppose you don't think what you're doing is dangerous at all? 92

TOPH
93 No I don't. 93

KATARA
94 Really? 94

TOPH
95 Yes, really. 95

KATARA
96 Well then, what's <u>this</u>?! 96

Katara suddenly pulls out the WANTED POSTER of Toph.

TOPH
97 I don't know! I mean seriously, what's with you people -- I'm blind! 97

KATARA
98 It's a wanted poster of you, "The Runaway!" Is that what you're called now? Are you proud of this? 98

TOPH
99 Where did you get that? 99

KATARA
100 It doesn't matter where I got it, the fact is-- 100

TOPH
101 You went through my stuff! You had no right. 101

KATARA
102 Your stuff was messy and I was just straightening up and I happened to stumble across it. 102

TOPH
103 That's a lie. You're lying, Katara! 103

KATARA
104 Fine, it's a lie. But you've been so out of control lately -- I knew something was up! I knew you were hiding something. And you were! 104

Katara holds up the wanted poster. Toph waves her off and starts walking away.

KATARA (cont'd)
105 Don't you walk away from me while I'm talking to you! 105

Toph stops.

TOPH
106 Oh really, Mom, or what are you going to do, send me to my room? 106

KATARA
107 I wish I could. 107

TOPH
108 Well you can't, because you're not my mom and you're not their mom! 108

Toph motions to Sokka and Aang.

KATARA
109 I never said I was. 109

TOPH
110 No, but you certainly act like it. 110
You think it's your job to boss everyone around but it's not. You're just a regular kid like the rest of us. So stop acting like you can tell me what to do. I can do whatever I want!

Katara is appalled.

KATARA
111 I don't act that way. Sokka, do I 111
act motherly?

SOKKA
112 Hey, I'm staying out of this one. 112

KATARA
(to Aang)
113 What do you think, Aang? Do I act 113
like a mom?

Aang nervously RUBS HIS EYE as he tries to think of the best way to answer this question.

AANG
114 Well, I... 114

Katara slaps Aang's hand away from his eye.

KATARA
115 Stop rubbing your eye, and speak 115
clearly when you talk!

Aang snaps to attention.

AANG
116 Yes ma'am! 116

Toph is still furious.

TOPH
117 I can't be around you right now! 117

As Toph walks to one side of the camp, Katara YELLS to her:

KATARA
118 Well, I can't be around you! 118

Katara storms off to the other side of the camp. Just then, Sokka's messenger hawk lands on Sokka's shoulder and CAWS.

SOKKA
119 I know, Hawky, why can't they just get along? 119

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Toph and Katara are still pouting on opposite ends of the campsite. Aang is sitting near Sokka who is holding his messenger hawk. No one is talking to one another and there is clearly tension in the group. Sokka turns to Aang.

SOKKA
120 Hey Aang, you want to test out my messenger hawk with me? I've got an idea. 120

AANG
121 Sure. 121

SOKKA
122 I'm going to send a note to Katara and say it's from Toph who wants to apologize. Then everyone will be friends again. 122

AANG
123 I got to say Sokka, you continue to impress me with your ideas. 123

SOKKA
(shrugs)
124 It's a gift. 124

Sokka finds a sheet of paper. As he writes, he reads aloud:

SOKKA (cont'd)
125 Dear Katara, sorry for everything. Your friend, Toph. 125

Aang and Sokka share a smile. Sokka folds up the sheet of paper and attaches it to the hawk's talon. He sends the bird to Katara. Aang and Sokka watch in anticipation as the hawk lands near Katara. Katara unrolls the note and reads it.

KATARA
(yelling)
126 I know this is from you, Sokka. Toph can't write -- 126

She then CRUMPLES the note up and THROWS it at Sokka.

KATARA (cont'd)
127 You're all driving me crazy! 127

She gets up and STORMS away.

AANG
128 I can't believe we forgot Toph can't write. 128

SOKKA
129 Yup. We're idiots. 129

AANG
130 I guess plan B is we send a note to Toph pretending it's from Katara... 130

SOKKA
131 I think we're going to run into a similar problem. 131

HAWKY
132 (CAWS) 132

SOKKA
133 Sorry Hawky, it looks like I'm going to have to do this without your help. 133

Sokka looks at Toph for a beat before standing up and walking over to her. Toph doesn't move when Sokka approaches.

SOKKA (cont'd)
134 Come on, we need to talk. 134

EXT. CLIFFS - DAY

Katara sits alone on a multi-tiered cliffside setting covered in moss. She dangles her legs over a small ledge near the top and looks out over a beautiful vista, deep in thought.

A moment passes then Katara hears someone approaching on a level beneath her. She looks down and sees Toph and Sokka on a ledge about ten feet right below her. They sit down and Katara silently listens in to their conversation. The following scene is cross-cut between Sokka and Toph talking to each other and Katara eavesdropping and reacting silently to what she hears.

(NOTE: Toph is sitting on a log and her feet are dangling off the ground.)

TOPH
135 So let me guess, you brought me out here to tell me your sister's not as annoying as I make her out to be? 135

SOKKA
136 No, she's pretty much a pain. 136

Katara looks a little annoyed.

SOKKA (cont'd)
137 She's always got to be right about everything, and she gets all bossy and involved and in your business... 137

TOPH
138 Yeah, I don't know how you can deal with it. 138

SOKKA
139 Actually... in a way, I rely on it. 139

TOPH
140 I don't understand. 140

Katara looks confused too.

SOKKA
141 When our mom died, that was the hardest time in my life. Our family was a mess. But Katara -- she had so much strength. She stepped up and took on so much responsibility. She helped fill the void that was left by our mom... 141

TOPH
142 I guess I never thought about that. 142

SOKKA
143 I'm going to tell you something crazy -- I never told anyone this before. But honestly... I'm not sure I can remember what my mother looked like. It really seems like my whole life Katara has been the one looking out for me -- she's always been the one that is there. 143
(MORE)

SOKKA (cont'd)
And now, when I try to remember my mom, Katara's is the only face I can picture.

TEARS well up in Katara's eyes. We see that Toph also has TEARS in her eyes.

TOPH
144 The truth is, sometimes Katara does act motherly, but that's not always a bad thing. She's compassionate and kind and she actually cares about me, you know -- the real me. That's more than my own mom. 144

Toph turns to Sokka, threatening:

TOPH (cont'd)
145 Don't ever tell her I said any of this! 145

SOKKA
146 Hey, my lips are sealed. 146

Katara smiles to herself then turns and walks away.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LATER

When Sokka and Toph return to the campsite, Katara is there training with Aang. Katara sees Toph and walks up to her.

KATARA
147 Hi Toph... uhm, I want to-- 147

TOPH
148 Katara stop. You don't need to apologize. I was the one being stupid. These scams are out of control and I'm done with them. 148

KATARA
149 Actually I wasn't going to apologize. I was going to say I want to pull a scam with you. 149

TOPH
150 What? <u>You</u> want to pull a scam? 150

KATARA
151 Not just any scam, the <u>ultimate</u> scam. 151

Toph, Sokka, and Aang are all SURPRISED.

KATARA (cont'd)
152 What do you say, Toph, just me and you -- one last go... you in? 152

Toph is suddenly very excited.

TOPH
153 You know I'm in! Now what's this idea of yours? 153

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN WITH MONUMENT - AFTERNOON

In the distance, we see the town and the monument of Firelord Ozai. We recognize it as the town from the opening scene. As Toph and Katara head towards the town, Katara explains the plan in voice over...

KATARA (V.O.)
154 The plan is simple. This wanted poster says you're worth a lot of money -- ten times more than you've made in all your scams. So I'm going to turn you in and collect the reward. Then you Metalbend yourself out of jail, and we're on our way! 154

EXT. TOWN WITH MONUMENT - AFTERNOON

NOTE: This is the exact same scene that took place in the beginning of the episode.

We open in the center of town on a twenty to thirty foot-tall MONUMENT depicting FIRE LORD OZAI, whose head is tilted back with hands out to either side. This magnificent monument is a grand public fountain -- only instead of water, flames and fire gush from Ozai's mouth and hands. This fire-fountain is the town center-piece.

As we PAN past the fire-fountain, we see there is a COMMOTION in town. The authorities are apprehending a dangerous and wanted criminal -- Toph! Soldiers surround her, overwhelming her. A large SOLDIER throws a NET on her and lifts her off the ground. Toph squirms, trying to get away, but it's no use -- she's caught. Toph begins yelling to someone off screen.

TOPH
155 How could you do this to me?! You betrayed me! 155

We REVEAL Toph is yelling at Katara! Katara has a cold look on her face as she fights back tears.

KATARA
156 You brought this on yourself. I had no choice. 156

Katara turns her back as Toph is dragged away. (Note: this is the end of the opening scene, but now it continues seamlessly...) Just then, a TOWN AUTHORITY approaches Katara.

TOWN AUTHORITY
157 You did the right thing by turning in 'the Runaway'. 157

KATARA
158 The right thing is its own reward. 158

TOWN AUTHORITY
159 Well, I'm happy to hear you say that. 159

He smiles brightly at Katara as she waits awkwardly for a beat.

KATARA
160 But... I still want the actual reward. 160

TOWN AUTHORITY
161 Of course, right this way. 161

He leads Katara towards the jailhouse.

INT. JAILHOUSE - CELL AREA - AFTERNOON

Toph smiles to herself as she is dragged towards her cell. We see that she is taken past a metal cell and then thrown into a thick, WOODEN cell. Toph feels around, realizing the cell isn't metal!

TOPH
162 Hey, what kind of cell is this? 162

GUARD
163 A wooden one. 163

The guard smiles a sly smile before SLAMMING the door. Toph is shocked.

INT. JAILHOUSE - LOBBY - AT THAT MOMENT

Katara is waiting patiently for her reward as the town authority fumbles behind the counter. Suddenly, she hears a loud, METAL CLANGING sound. Katara looks up and sees COMBUSTION MAN step out of the shadows! She is shocked! What's going on?! Katara looks to the town authority. The town authority points to Katara.

TOWN AUTHORITY
(to Combustion man)
164 That's her, that's the girl you were looking for. 164

Katara suddenly realizes -- they've been set up! Katara tries to make a break for it but Combustion Man stops her...

EXT. CAMPSITE - EVENING

Sokka and Aang are nervously waiting at the campsite with Momo and Appa.

AANG
165 Do you think this scam of theirs should be taking this long? 165

SOKKA
166 I was just wondering the same thing. We better check it out. 166

Sokka looks to Momo and Hawky.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(sternly)
167 You two behave! Appa's in charge. 167

APPA
168 (BELLOWS AUTHORITATIVELY) 168

INT. WOODEN CELL - EVENING

Katara and Toph are in the same cell together. They are both upset with themselves for letting this happen.

TOPH
(realizing)
169 Wait! It's a trap... 169

KATARA
(extremely sarcastic)
170 Really? No kidding -- is that why we're sitting in a wooden cage right now? Gee, how did you figure out it was a trap? 170

TOPH
171 Not for us, Katara -- we're the <u>bait</u>. He wants Aang. 171

A beat as Katara realizes Toph is right.

KATARA
172 Oh... I can't believe I was so stupid. 172

Katara gets more upset.

KATARA (cont'd)
173 See, this is exactly why I'm against these scams -- I knew this would happen! 173

TOPH
174 But this was your idea. 174

KATARA
175 I know. 175

Katara drops her head.

KATARA (cont'd)
176 I wanted to show you that I'm not so motherly. I wanted to show you that I can have fun, too. 176

Toph tries to comfort her.

TOPH
177 Katara, you are fun. If nothing else, you're at least fun to argue with. 177

Toph laughs and Katara smiles. Katara looks at Toph.

KATARA
178 I know your relationship with your parents is complicated and I shouldn't have said what I said. 178

TOPH
179 It's okay. I was really mad when you said that because... well because, maybe it's true. I try not to think about it, but when I left... I probably really hurt them. 179

Katara gives Toph a hug.

EXT. TOWN WITH STATUE - EVENING

Aang and Sokka are walking through the middle of town (and right past the Ozai statue), looking for Toph and Katara. The town is eerily deserted like before a showdown in a Zatoichi film.

SOKKA
180 Where do you think they might be? 180

AANG
181 Where do you think anyone is? 181

Suddenly, there is an EXPLOSION right next to them! Aang looks up and sees Combustion Man attacking.

AANG (cont'd)
182 Sokka watch out! It's Sparky- 182
Sparky Boom Man!

Combustion Man sends another fiery attack at them, blasting them back. Sokka and Aang fall to the ground and manage to crawl behind the statue.

SOKKA
183 You know, I'm starting to think 183
that name doesn't quite fit!

Combustion Man sends another EXPLOSION near Sokka and Aang.

INT. WOODEN CELL - THAT MOMENT

Toph and Katara hear the EXPLOSIONS coming from outside. They begin to get nervous and sweat.

KATARA
184 What are we going to do? 184

TOPH
185 I don't know. I wish we had some 185
earth or water. We need bendables!

KATARA
186 What about your meteor bracelet? 186
You could make a saw...

Toph shakes her head "no," and holds up her bare wrist.

TOPH
187 I left it back at camp -- I was 187
worried they would take it.

Katara wipes the sweat off her forehead and looks at it in her hands. She gets an idea. Katara begins RUNNING IN PLACE.

TOPH (cont'd)
188 Um, Katara... are you okay? 188

KATARA
189 Just fine. 189

TOPH
190 Well, what are you doing? 190

KATARA
191 I'm making my own water. 191

Katara WATERBENDS THE SWEAT off herself and bends a water-blade. She uses this to begin slicing through the wooden cell. Toph realizes what she is doing.

TOPH
192 Katara, you're a genius -- a sweaty, stinky genius! 192

EXT. TOWN WITH STATUE - EVENING

Sokka and Aang are hiding in an alley in between buildings. There are small fires all around the town.

SOKKA
193 This guy is too good -- he shoots fire from his brain! 193

AANG
194 We should split up. He can't chase us both. 194

Sokka and Aang agree. They try to make a run for it, but an explosion goes off RIGHT UNDERNEATH THEM. Sokka falls back into the alley and Aang is thrown into the middle of town. He lands with a THUD. Aang shakes his head, a little stunned. By the time Aang comes to his senses, Combustion Man is standing over him. Aang doesn't know what to do as he hears the SPARKING SOUNDS that always precedes a Combustion Man explosion. Aang braces himself. But just as Combustion Man is about to send the final blow, his head is suddenly ENCASED IN WATER, which quickly FREEZES.

We reveal Katara standing behind Combustion Man, bending the ice around his head -- she just saved Aang.

KATARA
195 Aang, get up! 195

The ice on Combustion Man's head suddenly EXPLODES OFF! Toph runs up.

TOPH
196 Let's get out of here. 196

Combustion Man turns to attack, but before he can, Sokka sneaks up behind him and SLAPS him on his "third eye," stunning him. Sokka looks up at Aang, who NODS approvingly.

Combustion man gets up, still dazed and reeling -- SMALL EXPLOSIONS begin going off randomly all over the place. The kids manage to dodge the explosions as they run out of the burning town. As the kids run away, Sokka is excited.

SOKKA
199 Hey I got it! The perfect name for that guy: Combustion Man! 199

TOPH
200 Good job, Sokka! Now let's get out of here before Combustion Man catches us! 200

SOKKA
201 See, it fits so well! 201

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

Appa lands in a safe location and the kids hop off.

SOKKA
(sleepy)
202 Well I'm exhausted. Hawky, how 'bout you, buddy? 202

HAWKY
203 (CAW) 203

SOKKA
204 Yeah, you're such a lazy little bird. 204

Sokka and Aang immediately find a spot to lie down and go to sleep. Katara is finding her own spot when Toph timidly approaches her.

TOPH
205 Katara... I need your help. 205

KATARA
206 What is it, Toph? 206

TOPH
(timid)
207 I need you to write some things down for me. I want to send a letter to my parents. 207

Katara smiles.

KATARA
208 I'll be happy to help. 208

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CLEARING - DAWN

We see a wide shot of the kids' camp. Sokka's messenger hawk suddenly flies out of the campsite with a LETTER attached to its talon. A beat later, we hear Sokka off-screen:

SOKKA (O.S.)
209 Hey, where'd Hawky go? 209

As the hawk CAWS and flies past the CAMERA we...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW